

REVEREND CLERGY, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL, SCHOOL COMMITTEE, ELECTRIC LIGHT COMMISSION, LIBRARY TRUSTEES, PUBLIC OFFICIALS, FAMILY, FRIENDS AND CITIZENS OF PEABODY. IT IS A DISTINCT PRIVILEGE AND HONOR FOR ME TO STAND BEFORE YOU TONIGHT AS YOUR MAYOR, AT THIS, THE 38TH INAUGURAL IN THE HISTORY OF OUR CITY.

TONIGHT'S INAUGURAL AND ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT MARK THE BEGINNING OF WHAT WILL BE A CHALLENGING TWO YEARS IN FULFILLING THE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE OUR CITIZENS HAVE PLACED IN US. IT ALSO MARKS A NEW BEGINNING FOR SEVERAL PEOPLE WHO WILL BE SERVING IN GOVERNMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME. I WANT TO WELCOME COUNCILLOR-AT-LARGE EDWARD LOMASNEY AND WARD FIVE COUNCILLOR DAVID GAMACHE TO THE CITY COUNCIL, BRENDA STOEY TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND ALL THE NEWLY ELECTED TRUSTEES TO THE PEABODY INSTITUTE LIBRARY. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH ALL OF YOU AS WE MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE NINETIES.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER FOR THE NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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SHARON KOKORAS. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HER AS WE LOOK FOR SOLUTIONS TO THE MANY COMPLEX PROBLEMS WE WILL BE FACING IN THE UPCOMING YEAR. ALSO LET ME CONGRATULATE VIN RAPONI, LAST YEAR'S COUNCIL PRESIDENT, FOR PROVIDING LEADERSHIP AND A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT.

TO THE CITIZENS OF PEABODY I SAY THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART. TO RECEIVE 87.3% OF YOUR VOTE IS EXTREMELY GRATIFYING GIVEN THE FACT WE HAVE MADE MANY DIFFICULT DECISIONS OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS. YOU HAVE REINFORCED MY BELIEF THAT TAKING THE POLITICALLY EXPEDIENT ROUTE, OR THE EASY WAY OUT, DOES NOT NECESSARILY RELATE TO VOTES, NOR IS IT THE RIGHT WAY TO RUN OUR GOVERNMENT.

THE GOALS WE HAVE ACHIEVED, AND HOPE TO ACHIEVE, REQUIRE WORKING TOGETHER, RESPECTING EACH OTHERS OPINIONS AND REALIZING OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE PUT US IN A POSITION OF TRUST AND LEADERSHIP. OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS WE HAVE ALL WORKED WELL TOGETHER TO PROVIDE A SMOOTH FUNCTIONING MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE CITY COUNCIL, THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, VARIOUS DEPARTMENT HEADS, PUBLIC OFFICIALS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, STATE AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE.

TO THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED BEFORE, AND THOSE WHO ARE IN OFFICE FOR THE FIRST TIME, I EXTEND MY HAND OF COOPERATION TO EACH OF YOU. IT IS OUR

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RESPONSIBILITY TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE THAT ALLOWS US TO ACCOMPLISH THOSE THINGS THAT MAKE OUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE. IF WE DO NOT SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PHILOSOPHY AND ALLOW TURMOIL AND CHAOS TO SET IN, THE PEOPLE WE REPRESENT BECOME THE VICTIMS.

TODAY'S INAUGURAL ON THIS DAY OF JANUARY, 1990 REPRESENTS THE FIRST DAY, OF THE LAST DECADE OF THE 20TH CENTURY. AS WE CLOSE IN ON THE START OF THE 21ST CENTURY, LET US MAKE IT OUR PRIORITY TO BUILD ON WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED AND TO SET NEW GOALS. LET US WORK TOGETHER TO ASSURE FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL ALSO HAVE A STRONG FOUNDATION ON WHICH TO BUILD.

THESE ARE DIFFICULT TIMES AS WE HEAR ABOUT THE DOOM AND GLOOM REPORTED EVERYDAY BY THE NEWS MEDIA CONCERNING THE COMMONWEALTH'S FISCAL PROBLEMS AND THE STATE'S ECONOMY. WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS OVER THESE LAST SEVERAL YEARS DESPITE THE RECENT BAD FINANCIAL NEWS FROM BEACON HILL. YET, THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO RELAX OUR EFFORTS OR BE SATISFIED WITH THE STATUS QUO. THIS IS THE TIME TO CLOSE RANKS.

FOR THOSE WHO WORK IN THIS ADMINISTRATION LET THERE BE A CLEAR MESSAGE: MORE WILL BE ASKED AND MORE WILL BE EXPECTED. MORE IN TERMS OF EFFORT, MORE IN TERMS OF INNOVATION, AND MORE IN TERMS OF PRODUCTIVITY. THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY HAVE A RIGHT TO EXPECT FROM THEIR EMPLOYEES THE SAME WORK STANDARD AS THAT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR. ANYTHING SHORT OF THAT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED BY THIS ADMINISTRATION. I INTEND TO CONTINUE TO MOVE

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THIS CITY FORWARD AND MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM WE HAVE DEVELOPED.

OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS WE WILL BE FACING A MULTITUDE OF ISSUES THAT WILL SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR CITY. TONIGHT I WOULD LIKE TO TOUCH ON A FEW. NEEDLESS TO SAY FINANCING MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT WILL BE ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT TASKS COMMUNITIES FACE. THIS PAST YEAR ALONE MORE THAN 190 COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE THROUGH THE REFERENDUM PROCESS ATTEMPTED TO OVERRIDE PROPOSITION 2-1/2 ON 700 BALLOT QUESTIONS WITH A SUCCESS RATE OF ABOUT 50%. UNFORTUNATELY, THOUSANDS OF MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS BECAUSE OF A LACK OF FUNDS AND IF THINGS DO NOT IMPROVE, THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE. I AM EXTREMELY PLEASED THAT WE HAVE NOT BEEN FACED WITH EITHER OVERRIDES OR LAYOFFS EVEN THOUGH THE CURRENT FISCAL CRISIS FACING THE COMMONWEALTH HAS PLACED THE CITY IN A STATE OF UNCERTAINTY. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL MAKE IT THROUGH THIS FISCAL YEAR, AS WE PREPARE FOR FISCAL 91.

I AM PLEASED THAT WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GO AGAINST THE TREND CURRENTLY IN PLACE THROUGHOUT THE STATE. ONCE AGAIN WE GAVE OUR CITIZENS A STABILIZED TAX RATE, WE DID NOT BORROW IN ANTICIPATION OF TAXES, NOR DID WE INCUR ANY LONG TERM DEBTS FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES FOR THE TENTH YEAR IN A ROW. IN FACT, WE WILL HAVE REDUCED OUR MUNICIPAL DEBT OBLIGATION FROM 37 MILLION DOLLARS TO 7 MILLION DOLLARS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS FISCAL YEAR. WE WERE ONCE AGAIN ABLE TO SEND OUT TAX BILLS WHICH REFLECT A LEVY OF OVER

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4 MILLION DOLLARS BELOW WHAT THE LAW ALLOWS US TO TAX, GIVING OUR CITIZENS MUCH NEEDED RELIEF. THE ONGOING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM IS PRESERVING INVESTMENT IN OUR BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT. IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS OVER 10 MILLION DOLLARS HAS BEEN SPENT IN THIS PROGRAM AND NOT A DIME OF IT HAS BEEN BORROWED.

WE HAVE TAKEN A PRUDENT APPROACH IN THE EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC FUNDS, AND WE HAVE MADE TOUGH DECISIONS ALONG THE WAY.

LET ME QUOTE A SENTENCE FROM MY BUDGET MESSAGE TO THE CITY COUNCIL ON APRIL 12, 1988, NEARLY TWO YEARS AGO. "WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO LOOK BEYOND FISCAL 1989, BUILDING A FINANCIAL HOUSE THAT CAN WITHSTAND THE WINDS THAT CAN CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF OUR ECONOMY." I SUBMIT TO YOU THE WINDS OF CHANGE ARE UPON US, AND WE HAVE SURVIVED THE FIRST STORM OF THE FINANCIAL CRISIS.

THE FUTURE IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO ME. IT WILL REQUIRE HARD WORK AND TOUGH DECISIONS TO GET US THROUGH THE FINANCIAL CRISIS. IN MANY CASES WE HAVE NO CONTROL OF OUR OWN DESTINY. FOR EXAMPLE, THIS YEAR ALONE OUR LOCAL AID WAS REDUCED BY 2 MILLION DOLLARS. THE STATE DID NOT HONOR ITS COMMITMENT OF A GRANT OF \$144,000 FOR THE NEW WEST BRANCH LIBRARY, NOR DID THEY HONOR A MATCHING GRANT, IN EXCESS OF \$500,000, FOR THE WATER REHABILITATION PROGRAM RECENTLY COMPLETED, AND THERE HAS BEEN A SHORTFALL IN ANTICIPATED LOTTERY FUNDS OF \$350,000.

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THE RECENT CONSENT DECREE ENTERED INTO BY THE COMMUNITIES COMPRISING THE SOUTH ESSEX SEWER DISTRICT CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THAT WE MUST FACE UP TO THE INEVITABLE, AND THAT IS, BUILDING A SECONDARY TREATMENT PLANT AND THE CLEANING OF SALEM HARBOR. NEEDLESS TO SAY THE PRICE TAG FOR THIS PROJECT RUNS ANYWHERE FROM 100 - 225 MILLION DOLLARS DEPENDING UPON LOCATION. WE MUST WORK TOGETHER TO DEVELOP A FUNDING MECHANISM TO MEET WHAT WILL BE A MAJOR FINANCIAL IMPOSITION TO THIS CITY. FURTHERMORE, THE SAFE WATER DRINKING ACT, PASSED BY CONGRESS, MANDATES NEW STANDARDS FOR DRINKING WATER, CARRYING A POTENTIAL COST OF SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS. HEALTH CARE COSTS OVER THE PAST YEAR HAVE ALSO RISEN DRAMATICALLY, WHICH WILL HAVE A DRASTIC IMPACT ON NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET WITH A STRONG POSSIBILITY OF REACHING THE MILLION DOLLAR MARK. AS A MATTER OF FACT, OUR EMPLOYEES' HEALTH CARE COSTS NOW REPRESENT OVER 10% OF OUR TOTAL BUDGET WHICH IS IN EXCESS OF 7 MILLION DOLLARS.

WHEN WE TAKE THE ISSUES I HAVE JUST MENTIONED AND ADD IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS AND NORMAL INCREASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES WE ARE TALKING ABOUT SUBSTANTIAL COST IMPACTS.

WE MUST BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES. THESE ARE NOT ISSUES WE CAN AFFORD TO POLITICIZE. THE STAKES ARE HIGH. THE CONSEQUENCES ARE SIGNIFICANT, AND WE WILL MEET THIS CHALLENGE THE SAME WAY WE HANDLED THE 4% CAP, PROPOSITION 2-1/2, AND THIS MOST RECENT FINANCIAL CRISIS. I AM

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PREPARED FOR THE STRUGGLE AHEAD AND WITH YOUR HELP AND COOPERATION WE WILL SUCCEED.

OUR NEIGHBORHOODS ARE BETTER TODAY FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, DUE IN PART TO THE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE MASSACHUSETTS SMALL CITIES PROGRAM, ALLOWING FOR HOUSING REHABILITATION, NEW STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND RECREATION AREAS AS WELL AS HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES.

OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS WE HAVE MADE A MAJOR COMMITMENT IN THE AREA OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION. ONE ONLY NEEDS TO RIDE AROUND THE CITY TO SEE THE MANY IMPROVEMENTS: FROM THE HIGH SCHOOL TO MACARTHUR PARK, FROM SYMPHONY AND KENNEDY TO LALIKOS AND MANY OTHER PARKS, OVER ONE MILLION DOLLARS HAS BEEN COMMITTED TO THIS PROGRAM. NOT TO CONTINUE THE PROGRAM WE HAVE STARTED WOULD BE A MISTAKE. IN THE NEAR FUTURE I WILL BE SUBMITTING TO THE CITY COUNCIL A REQUEST FOR \$200,000 TO CONTINUE THE PROGRAM AND CREATE A RECREATIONAL ENVIRONMENT THAT ENCOURAGES BOTH YOUNG AND OLD TO PARTICIPATE.

IT SEEMS JUST A SHORT WHILE AGO WE TALKED ABOUT A NEW WEST BRANCH LIBRARY AND TODAY THE LIBRARY IS NEAR COMPLETION AND WILL BE OPENING SHORTLY.

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE A MAJOR COMMITMENT TO THE LIBRARY PROGRAM. MANY JUDGE A COMMUNITY BY THE QUALITY OF ITS LIBRARY AND I AM PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE. OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS

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WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARIES BY A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT BECAUSE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING, AND IT IS GRATIFYING TO SEE THE MAJOR INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE UTILIZING OUR FACILITIES.

IN ORDER TO CONTINUE IN OUR EFFORT TO MAKE OUR LIBRARIES SECOND TO NONE AND TO PROVIDE OUR CITIZENS THE VERY BEST IN SERVICES, I WILL BE SUBMITTING TO THE CITY COUNCIL A REQUEST FOR \$100,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL BOOKS WHICH WILL CONTINUE OUR PROGRAM OF INCREASING OUR INVENTORY.

FOR YEARS WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT THE START OF THE URBAN SYSTEMS PROJECT. TONIGHT WE CAN TALK ABOUT THE COMPLETION AS THE FACE OF OUR CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT CHANGES DRAMATICALLY WITH NEW STREETS, SIDEWALKS, HISTORIC LIGHTING, TREES AND NEW TRAFFIC PATTERNS. THIS PROJECT WILL BE COMPLETED THIS SUMMER AND I CAN ASSURE YOU IT WILL BE SOMETHING IN WHICH WE CAN ALL TAKE PRIDE. MANY STORE FRONTS ARE BEING UPGRADED AND IT IS ENCOURAGING TO SEE THE CONFIDENCE THAT THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS IN OUR DOWNTOWN. EVIDENCE OF THIS IS THE OPENING OF THE WALGREEN'S STORE ALONG WITH THE MAJOR EXPANSION OF THE GEORGE PEABODY COOPERATIVE BANK. NEEDLESS TO SAY THERE WAS SOME MAJOR DISRUPTION AND I WANT TO THANK THE MERCHANTS FOR THEIR PATIENCE AND SUPPORT. THE END RESULT WILL BE A MORE VIABLE DOWNTOWN BENEFITTING ALL. I WILL BE WORKING OVER THE NEXT YEAR TO PULL TOGETHER ALL THE FINAL INGREDIENTS FOR THIS MAJOR UNDERTAKING.

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ALONG WITH OUR URBAN SYSTEMS PROGRAM, MANY OF THE CRITICAL INTERSECTIONS IN OUR CITY ARE IN THE DESIGN PHASE, ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION, OR HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. WE HOPE OVER THE NEXT YEAR TO IMPROVE THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

WITHIN THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS WE WILL BEGIN PLANNING FOR THE EIGHTH ANNUAL PRIDE-IN-PEABODY PROGRAM. THIS YEAR THE PROGRAM PROMISES TO BE EVEN BETTER THAN IN THE PAST. NEWLY CONSTRUCTED ISLANDS AND PLANTERS, ALONG WITH THE GENERAL CLEAN-UP AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS, WILL DO MUCH TO ENHANCE THE CITY'S IMAGE.

IN MY PRIOR INAUGURAL WE TALKED ABOUT COMPLETING THE BIRTHPLACE OF OUR CITY'S NAMESAKE, THE GEORGE PEABODY HOUSE CIVIC CENTER. ON JUNE 21ST OF THIS PAST YEAR THE DOORS TO THE NEW CENTER WERE OPENED. THE CENTER DEPICTS THE HISTORY OF THE CITY FROM ITS BEGINNING TO CURRENT TIMES. WE HOPE IN THE YEAR AHEAD TO RENOVATE THE BASEMENT LEVEL AND FOCUS ON THE CITY'S PROMINENCE IN THE LEATHER INDUSTRY. WE HAVE ALSO STARTED A PROGRAM WITH OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM WHERE STUDENTS VISIT THE HOUSE AND LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE CITY. WE ENCOURAGE ALL OUR CITIZENS TO VISIT THE CENTER.

WHILE WE ARE ON THE SUBJECT OF OUR CITY'S HISTORY, THE FIRST SETTLERS TO WHAT IS KNOWN AS PEABODY TODAY ARRIVED IN 1631. WE ACTUALLY BECAME THE TOWN OF PEABODY IN 1868 AND IN 1916 THE CITIZENS OF PEABODY VOTED TO BECOME THE CITY OF PEABODY. NEXT YEAR WILL MARK OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY AS A CITY.

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IN THE NEAR FUTURE I WILL BE APPOINTING A COMMITTEE TO PLAN AN APPROPRIATE CELEBRATION PAYING TRIBUTE TO OUR HISTORY.

AS WE ENTER THE DECADE OF THE NINETIES, WE WILL BEGIN TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN TO HELP GUIDE US INTO THE 21ST CENTURY. WE HAVE SIGNED CONTRACTS WITH LAND USE, INC., WHO SPECIALIZES IN DEVELOPING MASTER PLANS FOR MUNICIPALITIES, AND THEY WILL OVERSEE THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT. I WILL ALSO BE ANNOUNCING NEXT WEEK AN 11 MEMBER COMMITTEE TO WORK WITH THIS FIRM IN PUTTING TOGETHER A DOCUMENT THAT IS CRUCIAL IN FUTURE PLANNING AND DECISION MAKING FOR OUR CITY.

ON AUGUST 1ST OF THIS PAST YEAR THE MARRIOTT HOTEL OPENED THE DOORS TO THEIR NEW 257-ROOM HOTEL AT CENTENNIAL PARK, FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE CONFIDENCE THE PRIVATE SECTOR HAS IN OUR CITY. THOUGH EXPANSION CONTINUES TO SOME EXTENT AT CENTENNIAL PARK WE MUST NOW FOCUS MORE ON THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE. SOME WILL ARGUE THE ECONOMY HAS SLOWED DOWN AND WE SHOULD THEREFORE WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS. I SAY LET US PREPARE SO WHEN THE ECONOMY CHANGES WE WILL BE IN POSITION TO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN. WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO BUILD ON PAST SUCCESSES, AND IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO BE SATISFIED ONLY WITH WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

THERE ARE SO MANY OF OUR SENIOR CITIZENS WHO HAVE GIVEN SO MUCH OF THEMSELVES IN MAKING OUR COMMUNITY WHAT IT IS TODAY. I AM EXTREMELY PLEASED THAT WE ARE WELL ON OUR WAY TO BUILDING A NEW COMPREHENSIVE CENTER

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THAT WILL SERVE THE NEEDS OF A GROWING SENIOR POPULATION NOW ESTIMATED TO BE BETWEEN 9,000 - 10,000 PEOPLE. THE CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN SIGNED FOR THE DESIGN PHASE AND CONSTRUCTION SHOULD START EARLY THIS SUMMER. THIS CENTER WILL BE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF OUR CITY TO COME AND ENJOY THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE.

THIS PAST YEAR WE HAVE FULFILLED OUR COMMITMENT TO CAPITAL PROJECTS IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. THE NEWLY RENOVATED CENTRAL STATION IS OPEN AND TWO NEW PUMPERS HAVE BEEN PURCHASED AND PLACED INTO SERVICE. IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS OVER 4 MILLION DOLLARS IN CAPITAL PROJECTS HAS BEEN EXPENDED PROVIDING OUR DEPARTMENT WITH THE BEST FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT IN THE AREA.

WE MUST CONTINUE OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AREA OF PUBLIC SERVICES. THIS PAST YEAR OVER 30 STREETS WERE RESURFACED, NEW SIDEWALKS AND CURBS WERE INSTALLED AND A ONE MILLION DOLLAR WATER REHABILITATION PROJECT WAS COMPLETED. ADD TO THAT ALL THE OTHER FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY PUBLIC SERVICES, EVERYTHING FROM STREET CLEANING TO TRASH REMOVAL. NEEDLESS TO SAY THEY HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT ON THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE MORE EFFICIENT IN OUR OPERATION. WE MUST DELIVER THE SAME LEVEL OF SERVICES AND THIS MAY HAVE TO HAPPEN WITH LESS RESOURCES.

OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, I WILL BE WORKING HARD WITH THE SCHOOL

COMMITTEE AND THE SUPERINTENDENT IN DEVELOPING A STRATEGY THAT ALLOWS OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM TO OPERATE WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF DISRUPTION DESPITE THE SERIOUS BUDGET PROBLEMS FACING SCHOOL SYSTEMS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH. NOT ONE MEMBER OF THE PEABODY SCHOOL SYSTEM HAS LOST THEIR JOB BECAUSE OF BUDGETARY PROBLEMS. THIS FISCAL YEAR, I BELIEVE THAT HAS A VERY POSITIVE IMPACT ON PERSONNEL AND THE TEACHING ENVIRONMENT. I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT IN ACHIEVING THE GOALS HE HAS OUTLINED.

THIS PAST SUMMER WE PURCHASED A NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM TO PROVIDE FOR THE GROWING NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY. THIS YEAR WE WILL BE LOOKING AT THE FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT WITH A NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM TO GIVE THEM MUCH NEEDED CAPACITY.

OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS WE HAVE DEVELOPED A NUMBER OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL, PRIDE-IN-PEABODY, THE HOLIDAY FESTIVAL, AND LAST YEAR WE INTRODUCED THE HARVEST FESTIVAL. I BELIEVE THESE PROGRAMS ARE CRITICAL IN CREATING A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE IN OUR COMMUNITY. IT BRINGS FAMILIES TOGETHER AND ALSO CREATES COMMUNITY PRIDE. I WANT TO THANK THE MANY VOLUNTEERS WHO GIVE UNSELFISHLY OF THEMSELVES TO MAKE THESE EVENTS SUCCESSFUL. I AM COMMITTED TO CONTINUING THESE PROGRAMS AND IMPROVING UPON THEM WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

AS THE BOOK CLOSES ON THE DECADE OF THE EIGHTIES, WE CAN LOOK BACK WITH A GREAT DEAL OF PRIDE AT OUR MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS. BUT WE MUST NOT

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STOP HERE. WE MUST NOT ASSUME OUR JOB WILL BE EASIER. AS WE ENTER THE DECADE OF THE NINETIES, THE CHALLENGES WILL BE GREATER AND MORE COMPLEX. IT WILL REQUIRE LEADERSHIP, AS WELL AS MAKING TOUGH DECISIONS. WE CANNOT AND SHOULD NOT MAKE DECISIONS BASED ON A POLITICAL BAROMETER, BUT RATHER ON THE MERITS OF AN ISSUE AND WHAT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR CITY.

THIS EVENING I HAVE TALKED ABOUT A NUMBER OF ISSUES THAT EFFECT OUR CITY. BUT ONE THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN IMPORTANT TO ME IS OUR IMAGE. I TRULY BELIEVE OUR COMMUNITY HAS MADE GREAT STRIDES IN REGARDS TO THIS ISSUE. TODAY WHEN PEOPLE TALK ABOUT PEABODY, IT IS FOR ALL THE RIGHT REASONS AND OUR CITIZENS TALK ABOUT THIS CITY WITH A DEEP SENSE OF PRIDE. WE HAVE MET THE CHALLENGES OF THE EIGHTIES AND HAVE DONE WELL. AS WE ENTER THE DECADE OF THE NINETIES, THE CHALLENGES WILL BE EVEN GREATER. WE WILL HAVE TO SAY NO TO SOME REQUESTS BECAUSE THERE ARE MORE URGENT NEEDS. THAT WILL TAKE STRONG LEADERSHIP, POLITICAL COURAGE AND A WILLINGNESS TO SET ASIDE PETTY POLITICS.

I AM PREPARED TO START THE NEW TERM AS YOUR MAYOR WITH THE SAME ENTHUSIASM AND COMMITMENT AS IN THE PAST. I ASK YOU TO JOIN WITH ME AS WE FACE THE CHALLENGE AHEAD. YOU HAVE HONORED ME WITH A GREAT VICTORY AND I IN TURN PROMISE YOU MY VERY BEST.

LET ME WISH YOU A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR, AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

